



# WISCONSIN DNR FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

LAKE: THOMPSON

COUNTY: ONEIDA

YEAR: 2005

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Lake Thompson, Oneida County, from April 13 through April 29, 2005, to determine the health of its fishery. The survey was designed to assess the lake's walleye population. Lake Thompson is a soft-water drainage lake with predominantly sand substrate and a low-density walleye population. It has a surface area of 382 acres, 6.9 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 35 feet.

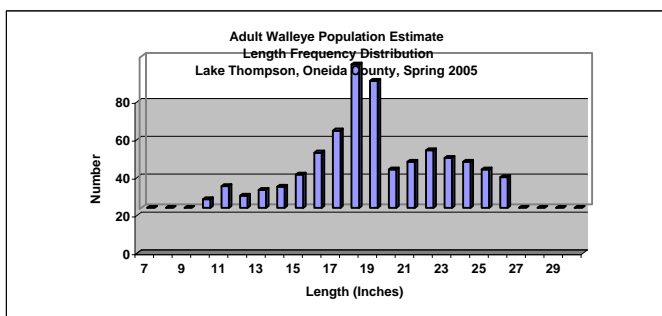


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of 435 adult\* walleye estimated to be in Lake Thompson, Oneida County, based on a spring 2005 survey.

\* Note: Adult walleye are defined as all sexable walleye and walleye of unknown sex  $\geq 15$  inches long.

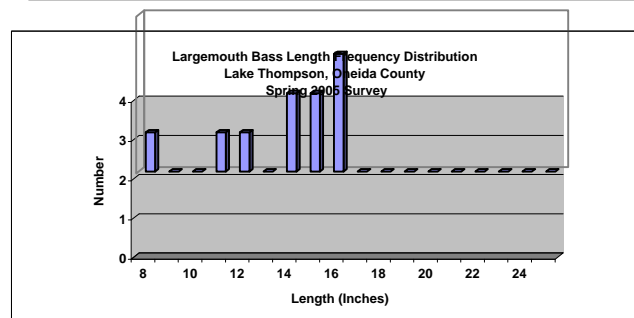


Figure 2. Length frequency distribution of 10 largemouth bass  $\geq 8$ " captured during a fisheries survey of Lake Thompson, Oneida County, in spring 2005.

## **Northern Pike**

We captured 89 adult\* northern pike in fyke nets fished in Lake Thompson from April 13-16, 2005. Approximately 19% (17 of 89) of adult northern pike we captured were 26 inches long or larger. We captured one northern pike 32 inches long or larger, a 32.2-inch male.

\* Note: Adult northern pike are defined as all sexable northern pike and northern pike of unknown sex  $\geq 12$  inches long.

## **Walleye**

We conducted a mark-recapture survey of Lake Thompson's adult\* walleye population from April 13-16, 2005. We captured and marked (fin clipped) 183 adult walleye in four days of fyke netting. A crew sampled Lake Thompson with an electro-fishing boat on April 16th and captured 38 adult walleye. Nearly 40% (15 of 38) of those walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting.

Based on those results, we estimated that Lake Thompson was home to 435 adult walleye (1.1/acre). Approximately 90% (392 of 435) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger. The largest walleye we captured was a 26.7-inch female.

## **Largemouth Bass**

Sampling was conducted prior to peak largemouth bass spawning. Therefore, we were unable to estimate the number of largemouth bass that inhabit Lake Thompson. We captured 10 largemouth bass, 8 inches or larger, during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Lake Thompson. Seven of those largemouth were 14 inches long or larger. The biggest largemouth bass we captured was 16.2 inches long.

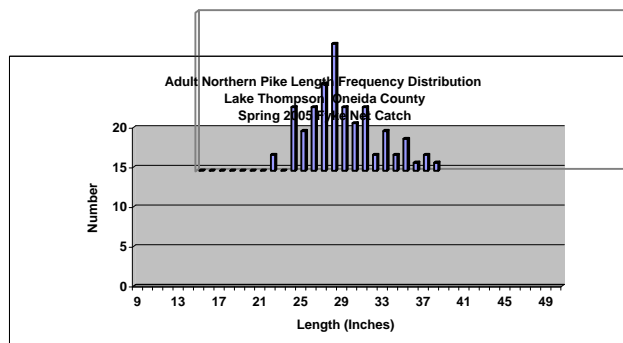


Figure 3. Length frequency distribution of 89 adult\* northern pike captured in fyke nets during a fisheries survey of Lake Thompson, Oneida County, in spring 2005.

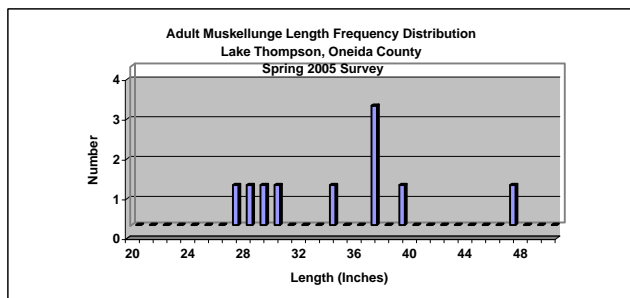


Figure 4. Length frequency distribution of 10 adult\* muskellunge captured during a fisheries survey of Lake Thompson, Oneida County, in spring 2005.

### **Muskellunge**

We captured 10 adult\* muskellunge during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Lake Thompson. Six of those adult muskellunge were 34 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge we captured, a 47.4-inch female, was the only muskellunge 40 inches long or larger in our sample.

\* Note: Adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and muskellunge of unknown sex  $\geq 20$  inches long.

### **Other Species**

We captured 12 species of fish in our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Lake Thompson in addition to the game fish mentioned above. Bluegill and yellow perch were the most abundant fish in our fyke net catches. We caught moderate numbers of black crappie and white suckers. We also caught black bullhead, burbot, common shiner, creek chub, golden shiner, pumpkinseed, rock bass and yellow bullhead. Young-of-year walleye will be sampled in fall 2005.

We are also conducting a creel (angler harvest) survey on Lake Thompson this year. Creel clerk Jason Halverson will count and interview anglers and examine their catch throughout the 2005-06 fishing season.

**Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Lake Thompson, Oneida County, 2005**

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 7 - March 5	3	15 inches
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 7 - June 17 (C&R) June 18 - March 5 (Harvest)	None 5 in total	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 28 - Nov. 30	1	34 inches
Northern Pike	May 7 - March 5	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Lake Thompson is included above (Table 1). While the regulatory information provided was current at the time the surveys were conducted, it is not comprehensive and should not be used as a substitute for the current fishing regulation pamphlet. You may obtain a copy of current fishing regulations when you purchase your fishing license, or download a copy from our web site at:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/fish/>

This report is interim only; data and findings should not be considered final. Results of creel surveys should be available by June 2006. If you are interested in a summary of the creel survey or want an update on this year's fyke netting and electro-fishing survey results, contact:

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